

MAINE

TOURISM ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2003

Hetty Richardson
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 SHS
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Dear Ms. Richardson:

Thank you for inviting me to participate in the development of a plan authorized by Resolve 79, To Study the Implementation of a Plan To Prohibit the Discharge of Certain Wastewater in to Coastal Waters.

The Maine Tourism Association is Maine's largest private tourism association with over 1700 members from every corner of the state. Maine's natural beauty is our most important asset and the preservation of our environment is of the utmost concern to our members.

Several areas in Maine have been working hard to attract the cruise ship business to their ports and harbors resulting in growth in this segment of tourism in Maine and a positive economic impact for Maine. During 2002 in Bar Harbor alone, passenger spending accounted for over \$12 million in sales and supported over 275 full- and part-time jobs.

In response to your request for a description of issues, the following are of concern to Maine's tourism industry.

1. Maine, under the leadership of Governor Baldacci, is working hard to become a more business friendly state and therefore the Maine Tourism Association's most important concern is to have a balanced approach between protecting our waters and allowing the cruise ship business to continue and to grow in those ports and harbors that are working to attract this business.
2. Given the existing significant Federal laws and regulations of cruise ships, does Maine need to develop additional laws and regulations?
3. Cruise ships have already agreed to hold their waste while in port therefore, prior to any recommendations being developed, Maine should determine if there is a problem being caused by cruise ships visiting our ports.
4. Would increased enforcement of existing federal regulations achieve the desired objectives for the State of Maine?

3258 Water Street • Hallowell, Maine 04347
Tel: 207-623-0363 • Fax: 207-623-0388
Web site: www.mainetourism.com • e-mail: mtainfo@mainetourism.com



5. Maine should have the legal authority to levy fines at a significant level on all cruise ships that discharge illegally in Maine's waters. This will send the message that while we welcome you to our shore, we will not tolerate illegal discharge of waste into our waters.

6. If new regulations are proposed, Maine must be certain they are not in conflict with existing federal regulations and international agreements. Who would monitor and enforce? What would it cost and who would pay for enforcement?

7. All recommendations should contain an economic analysis of the impact on the cruise ship industry and Maine's tourism business.

8. Are the provisions contained in LD 1158, which is based on Alaska's law, appropriate for Maine's waters? We would recommend a detailed analysis be undertaken, prior to recommending any such provisions, to make certain that the extreme differences between Maine and Alaska in geography, tidal flow, frequency of use and discharge locations are carefully addressed.

9. Any new standards must be achievable by cruise ships, not be a detriment to business and take into consideration the economic impact on Maine's businesses that cater to cruise ship passengers.

10. Do Maine's ports and harbors have the infrastructure necessary to handle any additional restrictions on cruise ships?

I hope this is helpful. I look forward to working with you and again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of this plan.

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Manager of Public Affairs

cc: Governor John E. Baldacci
Dann Lewis, Acting Commissioner, Dept. of Economic & Community
Development
Brian Nutter, Executive Director, Maine Port Authority
Nathaniel Bowditch, Acting Director, Maine Office of Tourism

